## **Elizabeth Denison**



William Tucker, the first English-speaking landowner in Macomb County, brought a family of slaves from Virginia with the surname of Denison to aid in clearing the land. His will of 1805 granted the elder Denisons their freedom after a year of service to Elijah Brush. However, their children remained slaves. With the help of Brush, the children petitioned the Territory of Michigan's Supreme Court in Denison vs. Tucker of 1807 for their freedom, but Judge Augustus Woodward remanded the family back to the custody of the Tucker family. Shortly after, the family escaped to

Canada. Soon after, Michigan ruled that all slaves in the territory were free. Judge Woodward then ruled that the territory had no obligation to return fugitive slaves from Canada and that our government would protect them.

A notable woman of Macomb County was Elizabeth Denison who was one of the children born in Macomb County in 1787 as a slave. She secured freedom around 1812 through her escape to Canada and the subsequent ruling of Judge Woodward's court case. Returning to the Detroit area, she purchased 48.5 acres of land in Pontiac in 1825, becoming the first black property owner in Oakland County (and probably in the state of Michigan). She amassed a great deal of wealth through stock and real estate. She could speak Native American and helped mediate between the Native Americans and the white settlers.

Employed by the Biddle family from 1830 through the 1860s, she used her inheritance from them to build the St. James Chapel on Grosse Ile. Built in 1867, the chapel was completed with supplemental funds from the Biddle family.

Elizabeth died in 1867 after spending the last 10 years of her life living as a free woman in Detroit. She was buried in Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery. Two Michigan State Historical markers honor her; one in Pontiac's Oak Hill Cemetery, which is on her former land, and one by the St. James Episcopal Chapel on Grosse Ile.

Written by Cindy Donahue.

## **African-American Churches in Macomb County**

## -Compiled by John Emerson

	NAME	MINISTER	PHONE	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP
1	AA-DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY	BURSH MARIA	586-751-1313	4280 E. 13 MILE ROAD	WARREN,	MI.	48092
2	AA-LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY	KARREN	586-791-3486	21661 E. 14 MILE ROAD	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48035
3	AA-UNITED MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME	HENERY IRENE	586-463-8800	75 DICKINSON ST.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
4	BETHLEHEM TEMPLE APL FAITH (CT)	BRADLEY DONALD	586-791-4530	22645 QUINN ROAD	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48036
5	BETHLEHEM TEMPLE H OF B (N H)	BARTELL	586-	58660 DELANIE ST.	NEW HAVEN,	MI.	48048
6	BIBLE WAY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH (ROS)	GLENN DALTON JR.	586-771-2975	25125 BLAIR ST.	ROSEVILLE	MI.	48066
7	CALVARY BAPTIST (MTC)		586-469-7589	67 NORTH GRATIOT AVE. (M-	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
8	CALVARY BAPTIST (NH)	DAVIS E.	586-	5885? VICTORY/CLINTON RIV	NEW HAVEN,	MI.	48048
9	CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD (CT)	MARKS	586-469-9732	42448 COLDCHESTER ST.	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48036
10	CORNELUS 1ST 7TH DAY AVENT (MTC)		586-468-4984	127 NORTH AVE.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
11	DETROIT CHRISTAN FELLOWSHIP (ROS)	VINCENT J.	586-777-7821	18000 GLENDALE ST.	ROSEVILLE,	MI.	48066
12	FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ROM)	ROGAN	586-752-5080	230 MUSSEY ST.	ROMEO,	MI.	48065
13		MARTIN TYRONE B.	586-463-0451	87 ROBERTSON ST.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
14	GREATER NEW HOPE BAPTIST (NH)	MACK JOHN	586-749-3813	58527 DELANIE ST.	NEW HAVEN,	MI.	48048
15	GREATER ZION BAPTIST (CT)	MILLER BENNIE	586-792-7881	22547 QUINN ROAD	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48036
16	HOLY GROUND TEMP. (WASH SCH)(MTC)	MILLER KENITH	586-	XXX CLAIR ST	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
17		WHITE	586-463-5310	425 CLINTON RIVER DR.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
18	LOVE LIFE FAMILY C. C. (EP)	LANCASTER K.W.	586-775-5683	15800 E. 10 MILE ROAD	EAST POINTE,	MI.	4802
19	MARTIN CHAPEL AME ZION (CT)	LAMBERT BARBARA	586-468-6151	1881 CLAIR ST.	CLINTON TWP	MI.	48036
20	MILLER MEMORIAL C.O.G.I.C.(WAR)	WRIGHT EARL J. BISHO	586-757-6767	4439 EAST NINE MILE ROAD	WARREN,	MI.	48210
21	MOORISH SCIENCE TEMP. (AM-ISLAM)(CT)		586-	33540 LIPKE ST.	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48036
22		HERRING SYLVESTER	586-	33701JEFFERSON ST.	ST-CL-SHORES	MI	48
23	NEW GRACE C.O.G.I.C (ROSEVILLE)	BILLINGSLEY	586-775-7170	25326 PINEHURST ST.	ROSEVILLE,	MI.	48066
24	NEW LIFE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST C	BROWN MIKE & AMAND	586-463-3250	XXX MAIN ST. P.O. #6526	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043-46526
25	NORTH BROADWAY C O C (MTC)		586-463-6931	260 NORTH BROADWAY ST.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
26	OUR LORDS HOUSE OF PRAYER	SHORE T	586-776-5090	25397 BLAIR ST.	ROSEVILLE,	MI.	48066
27	PREVAILING WORD C.C.(GOOD HOPE)(RO	ROBINSON TOMMY L.	586-771-2975	25125 BLAIR ST.	ROSEVILLE,	MI.	48066
28	RANSEY HOLY TEMPLE (MTC)	ROBINSON	586-468-4936	42 MOSER PLACE	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
29	SECOND BAPTIST (ROMEO)	GOWDY T.	586-752-6244	250 DORSEY ST	ROMEO,	MI.	4806
30	ST. LUKE A.M.E. (ROSEVILLE)		586-445-8350	17805 OAKDALE ST.	ROSEVILLE,	MI.	48066
31	STEPHENS TEMPLE C.O.G.I.C. (MTC)	COLBERT T.	586-465-1441	68 KIBBIEE ST.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
32	THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL #6 (CT)	HARE E.	586-468-1040	24137 OAKLEY ST.	CLINTON TWP,	MI	48036
33	TRIED STONE BAPTIST (CT)	STANDIFER TERRANCI		23512 JOY BLVD.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
34	TURNERS CHAPEL C.M.E. (MTC)		586-463-2760	125 CLINTON RIVER DR.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
35	VINSON CHAPEL A.M.E. (CT)		586-792-2130	22435 QUINN ROAD	CLINTON TWP.	MI.	48036
36	ZION TEMPLE CHURCH IN JESUS (MTC)	O'NEAL J.	586-954-1620-0	1216 COURT ST.	MT. CLEMENS,	MI.	48043
37	ZION TEMPLE COGIC (ROM)	McPHERSON	586-752-2772	259 MUSSEY ST.	ROMEO.	MI.	48065